GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1730
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
REVIEW OF GANGA AND YAMUNA ACTION PLAN
Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Mondal Shri Abu Ayes;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the Ganga Action Plan and the Yamuna Action Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (c) Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process.

The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) has been implemented, since its inception in 1985, in phases by the Government of India, taking up the pollution abatement works in the river Ganga in the polluted stretches identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the objective of improving the water quality. Besides Ganga, its major tributaries namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda are included under the GAP for pollution abatement works. The Government of India has also undertaken Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for abatement of pollution of river Yamuna with the assistance from Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC), Government of Japan in a phased manner. A total of sewage treatment capacity of 1747 (mld) million litres per day has been created so far for Ganga and its above tributaries.

The pollution abatement works are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments for the purpose. A multi-tier monitoring mechanism at the Centre and State level reviews the policy issues, funding pattern and progress of works from time to time. The States have been advised to ensure coordination among various Departments/agencies at the implementation level through holding regular meetings by Principal Secretary/Chief Secretary and to sort out inter-sectoral issues like acquisition of land, power supply, mobilization of resources among others.